



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

October 24, 2007

Reply To
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 05-026-BPA

Stacy Mason, Environmental Lead
Bonneville Power Administration, KEC-4
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Dear Ms. Mason:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed **Port Angeles-Juan de Fuca Transmission Project** (CEQ# 20070424) in Clallam County, WA. Our review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Section 309 directs EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal actions.

In our comments on the draft EIS in April 2007, EPA expressed environmental concerns about the potential for sediment discharge and increased turbidity in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Harbor, as well as degradation of water quality within marine waters and creeks that are currently listed under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) for low dissolved oxygen (DO) and fecal coliform. We recommended that the final EIS include information about:

- Broader public interest and need for the project, supported by data on power needs for the project area.
- Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for storm water management.
- CWA Section 404 Permit for discharge of sediments in waters of the US.
- Consultations with local Tribes and outcomes of such consultations.

EPA appreciates the changes Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Department of Energy (DOE) made to the EIS between draft and final in response to public comments. In particular, we are pleased with updated information concerning DOE's consultations with tribes affected by the project and other information provided in the final EIS, including Sea Breeze's commitments to obtain Section 401 certification from Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), to use practices contained in the most current edition of the Ecology's Storm Water Management Manual for Western Washington to mitigate for potential storm water pollution impacts, and to obtain a Section 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers before sediment discharges into waters of the U.S.

Since the certification or permit conditions were not included in the final EIS, EPA recommends that accountability measures be incorporated into both 401 certification and 404 permit requirements and monitoring plans, and that these be consistent with plans to attain loading targets in DO, fecal coliform, and other pollutants of concern in existing and future water quality restoration plans for water bodies within the project area. Additionally, we recommend that the Record of Decision (ROD) for this project include information to assure the public that the projects' environmental measures would be adjusted to meet Washington State water quality standards during implementation of the projects' operations in the period of the license.

We are still concerned that the EIS document remains unclear about the broader public need for this project. We recommend that additional clarifying information be included in the ROD.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the final EIS for this project. If you have questions or comments concerning our review, please contact Theo Mbabaliye at (206) 553-6322 or me at (206) 553-1601.

Sincerely,

//s//

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
NEPA Review Unit

cc: EPA Washington Operations Office
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe